REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application, in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 are pending. Claims 1-11 correspond to the subject matter of Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 15, 16, 21, and 22 of parent application serial number 09/881,693.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for examination. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Masayasu Mori

Registration No. 47,301

Robert T. Pous

Registration No. 29,099

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413 -2220

MM/RTP/KDP/mac I:\atty\kdp\23's\238370US\238370US.Prel Am.doc